

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, the broadcast flag will make impossible or more difficult the fair use of broadcast media. What is worse, however, is that in doing so, it will give citizens the impression that in making fair use of media, and bypassing protection schemes, they are doing something wrong or illegal. (Note I use the word "citizens"; referring to free citizens as mere "consumers" promotes just that mentality that trivializes their rights.)

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, I believe so.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Most definitely. Putting restrictions upon allowable technologies and devices inhibits the invention of creative new media devices. In addition, the proposal effectively makes it illegal for free and open source software to use DTV signals. This is one of the most blatantly unfair and destructive (to citizens, corporations, and society as a whole) aspects of the proposal.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

I do not believe that I have the requisite background to estimate the cost impact, however I am quite sure there would be *a* cost impact for requiring these technologies to be implemented (and for banning free and open source software). This cost impact will be either passed on to citizens ("consumers"), and/or will slow the adoption of DTV technology, negatively affecting the income of the media and device suppliers themselves.

Other Comments: